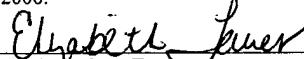


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: THOMPSON ET AL. Examiner: M. CONNELLY
 Serial No.: 10/810,547 Group Art Unit: 2874
 Filed: MARCH 26, 2004 Docket No.: 2316.926USRE
 Title: OUTSIDE PLANT FIBER DISTRIBUTION APPARATUS AND
 METHOD

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Amendments, Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on January 23, 2006.

By: 
 Name: Elizabeth A. Tauer

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

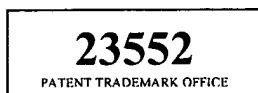
Mail Stop Amendments
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), it is respectfully requested that a three-month extension of time be granted in which to respond to the outstanding Office Action mailed November 18, 2005, said period of response being extended from October 22, 2005 to January 22, 2006.

Our check in the amount of \$1020 is enclosed to cover the required extension fee for a large entity.

Respectfully submitted,



MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
 P.O. Box 2903
 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
 (612) 332-5300

Date: Jan. 23, 2006


 Karen A. Fitzsimmons
 Reg. No. 50,470
 KAF:cjc